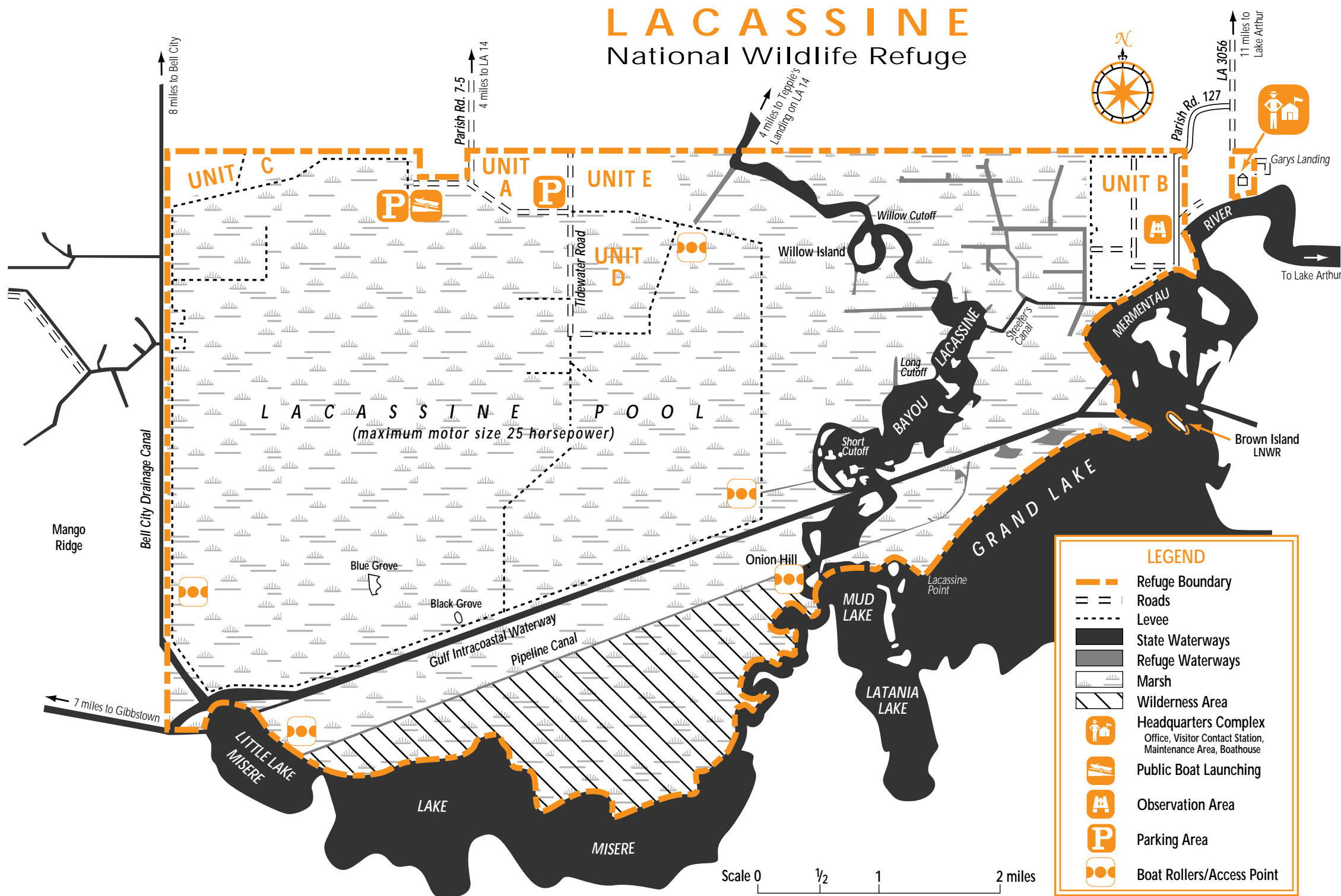


NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

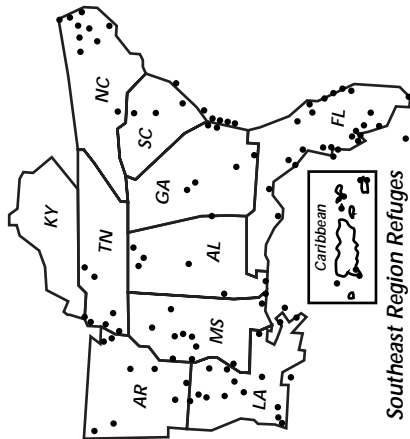
For additional information write or call:

Refuge Manager
Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge
HCR 63, Box 186
Lake Arthur, Louisiana 70549
Telephone: 318/774-5923

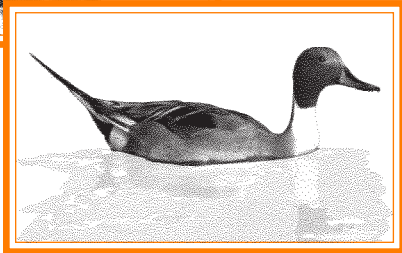
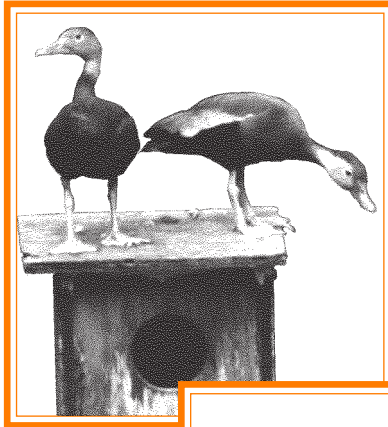
Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service
November 1993



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge
HCR 63, Box 186
Lake Arthur, LA 70549
Official business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300



L O U I S I A N A



**Lacassine
National
Wildlife
Refuge**

One of almost
five hundred refuges
in the United States.



**Lacassine
National
Wildlife
Refuge**

Located in
Cameron
Parish in
southwest
Louisiana,
Lacassine
National
Wildlife
Refuge
supports one
of the
largest
concentrations
of wintering
waterfowl of
any refuge
in the
National
Wildlife
Refuge
system.

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 to preserve a portion of the vast marshlands of Louisiana and to provide habitat for wintering and migrating waterfowl.

Most of the 32,970-acre refuge is freshwater marsh, characterized by dense, emergent growths of maidencane and bull tongue, with only a few natural ridges, spoil banks and levees. The dominate feature of the refuge is Lacassine Pool, created by enclosing a 16,000-acre marsh with a low levee. Large waterfowl concentrations of up to 800,000 ducks and geese have been observed in Lacassine Pool in the past.

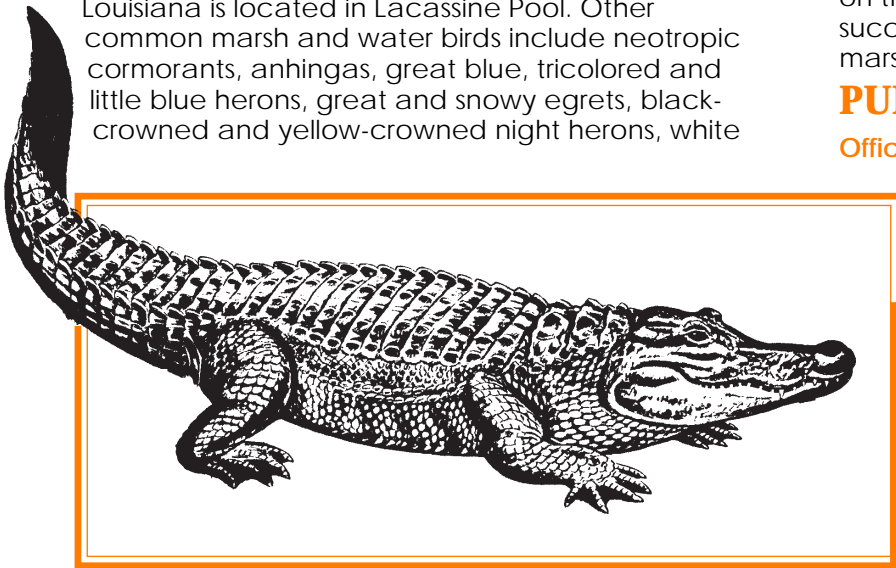
A 3,345-acre wilderness area has been designated in the refuge. Located south of the pipeline canal and west of Bayou Misere, this area is relatively unimpacted by man's activities. Most of the marshes outside of this area have been influenced to some extent by petroleum exploration activities.

WILDLIFE

Strategically located at the southern end of the Mississippi and Central Flyways, Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge preserves one of the major wintering grounds for waterfowl in the United States. During the winter months, the refuge supports peak populations of over 300,000 ducks and 80,000

geese. Large wintering concentrations of white-fronted and snow geese can be found here. Pintail, blue-winged and green-winged teal, mallards, ring-necked ducks, gadwalls and American wigeons are the common migratory ducks. Nesting waterfowl include wood ducks, fulvous whistling ducks, mottled ducks, and occasionally blue-winged teal and black-bellied whistling ducks.

A variety of wading birds are common on the refuge, particularly during the breeding season. The first American nesting colony of cattle egrets outside of Florida was found here. One of the only roseate spoonbill nesting rookeries in Louisiana is located in Lacassine Pool. Other common marsh and water birds include neotropic cormorants, anhingas, great blue, tricolored and little blue herons, great and snowy egrets, black-crowned and yellow-crowned night herons, white



and white-faced ibises, king rails, American coots, common moorhens, purple gallinules, and black-necked stilts. Wood storks occasionally frequent the refuge in late summer.

Rice fields surrounding the refuge are well known for supporting large populations of migrating shorebirds in the spring and fall, and waterfowl and yellow rails in the fall and winter.

The refuge also provides suitable habitat for armadillos, swamp rabbits, fox squirrels, nutria, mink, otters, raccoons, coyotes, white-tailed deer and a large population of American alligators.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Refuge habitat is managed for use by all wildlife, with special emphasis on waterfowl. Management techniques used at Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge include burning, managing for moist soil plants, planting food crops and water level manipulation.

Approximately 1,500 acres are managed for moist soil plants and agricultural crops to provide desirable waterfowl foods. An 800-acre subdivision of Lacassine Pool known as Unit D is being managed as an experimental unit to determine the effects of fire and mechanical manipulation on the vegetation in an effort to slow the natural successional processes which are changing the marsh to dry land.

PUBLIC USE - WHERE AND WHEN

Office: Located at the end of Highway 3056. If traveling west on Interstate 10, take Exit 64 (Jennings) and travel south on Highway 26 to Highway 14 in Lake Arthur, west on

Highway 14 for 7 miles to Highway 3056, then south 4.5 miles. If eastbound on Interstate 10, take exit 54 (Welsh) and travel south on Highway 99 to Highway 14, east on Highway 14 for 3 miles to Highway 3056, then south 4.5 miles.

•Open year-round.
Weekdays Only.
7 am-3:30 pm.



Lacassine Pool:

Located at the end of Parish Road 7-5. Travel west from Lake Arthur on Highway 14 for 15 miles or east from Hayes on Highway 14 for 3 miles to Parish Road 7-5, then south 4.5 miles.

•Access is allowed year-round from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

•Boats are allowed from March 15 through October 15

Unit B: Located at the end of Parish Road 127 near the refuge office. Travel 3.5 miles south of Highway 14 on Highway 3056 to Parish Road 127, then west 2 miles.

•Access is allowed from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset from March 15 through October 31.

•An observation area overlooking Unit B is open year-round from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Other Units of the Refuge:

•Access is allowed in other units of the refuge from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset from March 15 through October 31. Certain areas may be closed for management purposes and are identified by closed area signs.

DISABLED ACCESS

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact the refuge manager for information on special accommodations which are available.

ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY

Hiking: Although no designated trails have been developed, hiking is permitted on about 30 miles of levees and service roads in Lacassine Pool and Unit B near the refuge office.

Berry Picking: Picking berries is permitted throughout the refuge except when access in an area is closed for management purposes and identified by closed area signs.

Wildlife Observation: During winter months waterfowl usually may be seen in Unit B. In addition, many types of wildlife including waterfowl may be seen throughout the year from 4 miles of public roads in Lacassine Pool.



Boating: Refuge canals, bayous and waterways are open to boat travel during most of the year. A public boat launch is available in Lacassine Pool. Only commercial (fee) boat launching facilities are available for access to portions of the refuge outside of Lacassine Pool. *NOTE:* Motors are restricted to 25 horsepower or less in Lacassine Pool. Marshes outside of Lacassine Pool may be entered only by paddling and poling - not by the use of motors.

Fishing: Recreational only. Fish include bass, bowfin (choupique), bream, crappie, catfish and gar. Consult the refuge fishing brochure for specific regulations.

Crawfishing: Recreational only. Consult the refuge fishing brochure for specific regulations.

Waterfowl Hunting: Hunting is permitted on the 6,400-acre waterfowl hunting area. Consult the refuge hunting brochure for specific regulations.

Deer Hunting: Archery deer hunting is permitted on the refuge. Consult the refuge hunting brochure for specific regulations.

Ask if it is permitted before doing any activity not listed above.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

Vehicles: All motor vehicles are restricted to designated roads and parking areas. Roads and trails may be closed at any time due to adverse conditions. Vehicles must be removed from the refuge at night. All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) are prohibited on the refuge.

Alcoholic Beverages: It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle or motorboat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Federal law also prohibits the use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting on national wildlife refuges.

Camping: Camping is not allowed on the refuge. Public camping is available at Myers and Garys Landings along Highway 3056 near the refuge office.

Littering: Littering is prohibited on the refuge.

Please pack out all trash and leave a clean marsh. Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paper, paint, etc. is also prohibited on Lacassine.

Fires: Uncontrolled fires are a danger to man and wildlife; please help preserve the refuge by not lighting fires.

Collecting: Do not gather or take any plants, flowers, insects, firewood, artifacts, etc. Permits are issued for special activities.

Weapon Possession: Archery equipment and firearms in vehicles on refuge roads or in boats traveling through the refuge on State navigable waterways must be unloaded and either encased or dismantled. The only weapons and ammunition which may be possessed while in the field are archery equipment during the refuge archery deer season, and shotguns and non-toxic shot in the waterfowl hunting area during the refuge waterfowl hunting seasons. Possession of any weapon or ammunition on the refuge in any situation not listed above is prohibited.

Harassing Wildlife: All wildlife including frogs, turtles and snakes, both nonpoisonous and poisonous, are protected on the refuge. Do not feed any wildlife including alligators. The use of lights to observe or hunt wildlife is prohibited. Only hunting and fishing activities which are authorized by refuge regulations are permitted.

Trapping: Only alligator and furbearer trapping authorized by the refuge manager is permitted.

Pets: Pets are not recommended on the refuge because of the alligators. All pets must be kept on leashes. Hunting dogs used during the refuge waterfowl hunt must be under control at all times.

Swimming: Swimming is prohibited on the refuge.

Horseback riding: Horses and horseback riding are prohibited on the refuge.

